Motorcade

Mr. Henry Wade
District Attorney
Dallas County Government Center
Dallas, Tx 75202

6/13/80

Dear Henry,

Thank you very much for your 6/9 and the enclosed copy of Officer Jackson's notes of his observations pertaining to the JFK assassination. If you can get my thanks - and history's,- to him, I'd appreciate it.

If I didn't tell you the FBI stayed away from all 17 motorcycle policemen in the motorcade until about 1975, when they were embarrassed by getting caught and had to both con and pacify Kelley. It was obvious from the records - have that they did not get and did not want Jackson's notes. Reading them explains why.

His observations are confirmed by other information the FBI and Commission stayed away from, including his closest companion in the motorcade, Chaney. As they pertain to the crime they are dependable and important and confirm the Connallys. As they relate to the entire motorcade and arrival at the hospital they include what I do not recall from any other source and provide details missing from what is known.

The decision of which I sent you a copy was most of the 5/29 issue of the Washington Law Reporter. I'll send Jim Fague a copy of that. It is less copying.

I've won another of which I'll send you a copy not because it has to do with events down there, because it doesn't, but because you may be interested in the precedent. It means that wealthy corporations like Time, Inc., can't again buy up unique evidence, like the Zapruder film, give a print to the government and then both claim nobody can have it because it is copyrighted. They can buy it up and they can hide it but if they give it to the government it becomes an agency record, susceptible to the Freedom of Information Act. Time did the same thing in the King assassination - worse because the photographer pulled a dirty one on the public, which paid him. Unless the district court turns around - I won there - or the Department petitions for an en banc rehearing or goes up on cert I get the pictures. Believe me, good friend, they are important. I saw them in 1971 and got contacts as part of their effort to prevent what happened. When NY sent a set of prints to Fields, it unloaded them on Memphis, which proceeded to ignore their evidence. When I went after them the FBI lied under oath and persisted until I gave them chapter and verse. Then the Memphis office suggested raising the copyright issue even though the prints were not copyrighted.

Such misconduct in major cases by the nation's major law enforcement organization give law enforcement a bad name. It breeds disillusionment and contempt for the law, especially among the young. I haven't had an invitation to speak at a college in a year, but it is difficult to make the young people see that this is not representative of all government and all law enforcement. What I've found gets across on this best is what they can comprehend. I tell them then that despite the failings I report there is no other land in which I'd be able to do what I do and have done, that even Britain and Canada have official secrets acts, and that rather than withdrawing they should participate to clean and heal and try to prevent repetition of the same abuses of our system.

Many thanks. Hope you are up to snuff again.

Best wishes,

Harold Weisberg